



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;  
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## ***BACOPA ROTUNDIFOLIA*** **ROUNDLEAF WATER-HYSSOP**

Roundleaf Water-hyssop is a perennial with branched, fleshy stems, 10-40 cm long, that float on the surface of the water and root in mud at the nodes, arising from fibrous roots. The broadly elliptic to circular leaves are 1-3 cm long, sessile, and opposite each other on the stems. Newer foliage is short and hairy. Flowers are borne on stalks, 5-20 mm long, arising from the axils of leaves. The cup-shaped, white flowers are 5-10 mm long and have 5 equal lobes above a united tube that is yellow inside. There are 4 small stamens. The calyx is composed of 5 separate sepals, one much broader than the others. Capsules are globose and 3-6 mm high. Flowering and fruiting June- August.

The combination of opposite, nearly circular leaves and small flowers with a united tube and 5 equal corolla lobes separate this species from others in mud flat or shallow aquatic habitats. A hand lens may be needed for positive identification.